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MEDIA ADVISORY

McConnell, Newberry to dedicate new affordable housing units

Senator Mitch McConnell will join Mayor Jim Newberry and Austin Simms, executive director of the Housing Authority, for a news conference to be held at **10:15 a.m., Tuesday, July 1.** **The news conference will be held at the end of East Sixth Street.**

The Senator and Mayor will dedicate 60 new apartments now opening up in Twin Oaks Park, the new name for what was once the Bluegrass-Aspendale Housing Complex, an 80-acre site located on the east end of downtown Lexington.

The Housing Authority won a \$20 million federal “Hope VI” grant in 2005 to provide new affordable housing opportunities at the site. Ultimately, there will be 103 single-family homes and 176 apartments in addition to the 60 that are being dedicated Tuesday.

The site also includes a new school, the William Wells Brown School, which will open in this fall. The city, an active partner in the redevelopment, provided approximately \$3 million to build a community center within the school.

In addition, Lexington provided approximately \$3 million in local funds to extend Shropshire Avenue from the Bluegrass Aspendale site to Midland Avenue, is providing

48 additional lots for construction of affordable housing, and has provided services to people displaced by the construction.

The 2005 grant is the second Hope VI grant Lexington has been awarded. The first, received in 1998, was for \$19 million and allowed revitalization of the former Charlotte Court housing complex off Georgetown Street.